

Spring Independent School District

16717 Ella Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77090 • Tel. 281.891.6000



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
BOARD ROOM
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090**

MINUTES

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 PM on September 11, 2018, in the Board Room of the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Boulevard, Houston, Texas, in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Members Present:

Rhonda Newhouse, President
Jana Gonzales, Vice President
Donald Davis, Secretary
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary
Dr. Deborah Jensen
Chris Bell (arrived at 7:04 PM)
Winford Adams, Jr.

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools
Victor Mitchell, Chief of Police
Julie Hill, Chief of Staff
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services
Mark Miranda, Chief Operations Officer
Deeone McKeithan, Chief Human Resources Officer
Ann Westbrooks, Chief Financial Officer
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief Communications Officer
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

II. Flag Pledges

The Presentation of the Colors and pledges of allegiance were led by the Westfield Mustang Army JROTC and included Cadets Faith Jones, Fabiana Alvarado, David Nguyen, Vivian Garcia, Arianna Bailey, and Dana Vega.

III. Moment of Silence

President Newhouse called for a moment of silence and asked the audience to remember those that were lost on 9/11.

IV. Opening Remarks

A. Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks by reminding everyone that September is Attendance Awareness Month. On Saturday, Sept. 15, the District is holding its annual EVERYday Counts Attendance Matters Success Walk. "I, and dozens of our Spring ISD teachers and volunteers, will be out in our neighborhoods talking with students who have left school about how we can help them get back on track. We will also be talking about the importance of good attendance for all of our students," he said.

Dr. Watson then discussed how he will be embarking on a middle school listening tour to get input that will help the District strengthen and improve its middle school programs. "This is a big priority for us because our data shows that some of our families are opting out of our middle schools," he said. Six meetings are planned, and he told the board he will be coming back with findings and recommendations.

Dr. Watson went on to mention that October is National Bullying Prevention Month, detailing the District's plan to officially launch its new anonymous reporting tool in the coming weeks as well as a general awareness campaign. The goal he said is to build a culture where all students and staff feel respected and safe.

The Superintendent was then joined in the horseshoe by members of the Spring ISD Education Foundation to accept a check for \$12,520. The amount represents a portion of the money collected by the Foundation from recurring employee donations. Dr. Watson explained that some of the money will be returned to the campuses and some will go to the central administration building. "Campuses will be able to use their funds in support of special projects focused on students and staff and Central Admin will use the money to support our employee HUGs Program," he said. "I'm very grateful to the Foundation and everything it does to support our district."

B. Board of Trustees

President Rhonda Newhouse invited Trustees to share remarks.

Trustee Chris Bell thanked everyone who came out to the meeting and those who turned out for Saturday's groundbreaking for the District replacement stadium. He also noted "Tie Tuesday" and detailed how he quickly tried to put a tie on in his car on the way to the meeting. He said he was glad he did, when he saw others wearing ties on Tuesday, including the Board President and Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services. He said he was excited about Tie Tuesday and having students wearing ties.

Trustee Donald Davis thanked Dr. Watson for the opportunity on behalf of himself and his organization to gather school supplies. He said they wanted to bring the supplies directly to the schools and students. Six schools were selected as well as 25 teachers. He thanked the donors for their generosity and noted that all of the contributions went to a good cause. Trustee Davis mentioned that he had received a phone call from a former Westfield High School student who just graduated from West Point Academy and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Davis said she is the first female JROTC cadet at Westfield High School and the first to go to West Point and get a commission. She now wants to come back and talk with other Spring ISD students, he said, also noting that he is proud of the student's

accomplishment and grateful for the ongoing support of the JROTC program in the District.

Trusee Winford Adams Jr. congratulated area organizers for putting together a Labor Day Parade in which he had the opportunity to participate. He congratulated the Spring High School NJROTC cadets for carrying the colors during the parade in spite of heavy rain and noted their commitment and dedication.

Trustee Deborah Jensen talked about the District being at a progress point with regards to its strategic plan, Every Child 2020. This year marks the fourth year of the plan, or the LIFT year. She congratulated Dr. Watson for leading a plan that continues to guide the work of the District. In particular, she said the plan is not just gathering dust on a shelf. "I'm just very impressed with our strategic plan and how everyone who makes a presentation always ties back whatever they're doing to the strategic plan," she said.

Trustee Justine Durant echoed her support for the strategic plan and noted that it began when Dr. Watson became superintendent and he embarked on a listening tour. She said she's looking forward to seeing the results from the middle school listening tour. "That is our area of opportunity, and we're putting a strong focus on it." She went on to talk about all three high schools performing together at the groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday and the display of unity. "I was just filled with so much emotion and pride, she said. "It was an amazing experience."

President Rhonda Newhouse had the opportunity to visit Clark Intermediate School, and she thanked Trustee Davis for letting her know that there was a need for backpacks at the school. She was able to tap into available resources and gathered a lot of backpacks together for the students. "I'd like the schools to know that when they have students who are in need to please let us know so that the Board can help and call on resources in the community." She also recognized Tie Tuesday and presented a bag of ties to be donated to students. "This is turning out to be a very, very nice thing for the District," she said of the campaign. "A new culture for our students."

V. Recognitions

A. Points of Pride – Spring ISD Procurement Services Department

The Board recognized the Procurement Services Department for receiving the Annual Achievement of Excellence Award from the National Procurement Institute (NPI) for the ninth consecutive year. Spring ISD was one of just 48 recipients in Texas and one of only 26 school districts in both the United States and Canada to receive the distinction this year. Representing the Procurement team were Executive Director Phillip Ellison, Rhonda Mitchell, Erica Banda, and Chief Financial Officer Ann Westbrook.

VI. Public Hearing for the 2018–2019 Spring Independent School District Campus Improvement Plans

A Public Hearing was held for the 2018–2019 Spring ISD Campus Improvement Plans. No members of the public registered to speak to this agenda item.

Trustee Bell moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2018-2019 Spring Independent School District Campus Improvement Plans, as presented by the administration. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

VII. Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services

A. Interlocal Contract Between Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) and Spring Independent School District

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding an interlocal contract between Harris County Department of Education and Spring ISD for therapy services for the 2018–2019 school year. Implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) regulations calls for providing eligible students with specific therapy as a related service per the students' ARD/IEP. Harris County Department of Education provides Spring ISD with therapists who are well trained, monitored, and dedicated to providing our students with quality services.

Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Interlocal Contract Between Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) and Spring Independent School District for Therapy Services for the 2018-2019 School Year. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried 6 to 1 with Trustee Adams abstaining due to his employment relationship with Harris County Department of Education.

B. Interlocal Agreement Between Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) and Spring Independent School District

The Board will consider approving the proposed interlocal agreement between Harris County Department of Education and Spring Independent School District for the 21st Century Grant Program.

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information on a proposed interlocal agreement between Harris County Department of Education and Spring Independent School District for the 21st Century Grant Program. The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant Program, focuses on academic performance (including a strong literacy foundation), attendance and discipline through enrichment and afterschool opportunities.

Trustee Davis moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Interlocal Agreement Between Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) and Spring Independent School District for the 21st Century Grant Program, as presented by the administration. Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried 6 to 1 with Trustee Adams abstaining due to his employment relationship with Harris County Department of Education.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt all of the items listed on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

A. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Following Meetings:

1. August 9, 2018 Board Work Session
2. August 14, 2018 Regular Meeting

B. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CNA(LOCAL) – TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT – STUDENT TRANSPORTATION Chief Julie Hill will present proposed revisions to Board Policy CNA(LOCAL).

C. First Reading of TASB Local Update 111 – Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies

Chief Julie Hill will present the first reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 111.

1. BBD(LOCAL) – BOARD MEMBERS – TRAINING AND ORIENTATION
 2. CAA(LOCAL) – FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – FINANCIAL ETHICS
 3. DH(LOCAL) – EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
 4. DHE(LOCAL) – EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT – SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING
 5. DI(LOCAL) – EMPLOYEE WELFARE
 6. FEA(LOCAL) – ATTENDANCE – COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
 7. GKA(LOCAL) – COMMUNITY RELATIONS – CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES
- D. Middle School #8 Bid Package 4, 3rd Guaranteed Maximum Price
The Board will consider approving the Middle School #8 Bid Package 4, 3rd Guaranteed Maximum Price in the amount of \$6,739,516.
- E. Certification of Anticipated Collection Rate for Spring Independent School District
The Board will consider approving the Certification of Anticipated Collection Rate for Spring Independent School District.
- F. Request for Proposal #19-003 – CMAR – Spring High School Ninth Grade Center
The Board will consider authorizing the Superintendent of Schools or a designee to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts with the construction manager-at-risk (CMAR) firm for the project and fees.
- G. Taxpayer Refunds
The Board will consider ratifying refunds exceeding \$500.

IX. Public Participation

Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

X. Closed Session

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 7:44 PM for the purpose of entering into closed session pursuant to the following provision of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

- A. Under Section 551.071 - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized, including any item posted on this agenda
- B. Under Section 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property
- C. Under Section 551.074 - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee
 1. The Board will deliberate regarding the Superintendent's evaluation
 2. The Board will deliberate on employees nominated for special recognition
 3. The Board will deliberate on a recommendation for the termination and finding of no good cause for an employee's abandonment of contract
 4. The Board will deliberate on the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses
 5. The Board will deliberate on employee resignations, recommendations to withdraw prior actions taken, recommendations to void employee contracts,

recommendations for the proposed termination of employees on probationary and/or term contracts, and final orders for employees on term and probationary contracts previously proposed for termination and/or nonrenewal

- D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

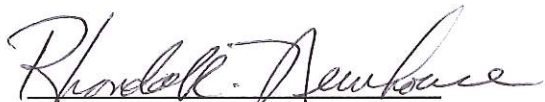
XI. Action on Closed Session Items


President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 8:53 PM

- A. Trustee Durant moved that the Board of Trustees render a final order to terminate the contracts of Omar Durham, Raymond Jackson, Stanley Alexander, Adrian Gomez, and Isaac Rodriguez and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the employees of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board of Trustees issue a school district teaching permit to Adiah Leonard for the purpose of teaching noncore career and technology courses and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board's action. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Superintendent of Schools recommendation to terminate the contracts of Jose Hernandez, Antonio Juarez, and Lalanea Taitano upon finding that the employees failed to perform their contracts without good cause, and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the employees of the proposed termination pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Adams further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the State Board for Educator Certification that the employees failed to perform their contracts without good cause, and of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Gonzales, seconded by Trustee Durant, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:57 PM.


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Donald Davis, Secretary